

## BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”  
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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**MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK**



**Bob & Patsy Green | Hispanic Ministry**

**PRAISE** - Although the prostate cancer that attacked my body in 2003 has begun to grow again, We praise the Lord that it is progressing very slowly. A blood test revealed that my PSA was up to 3.74 three months ago. It was up to 43.0, 19 years ago when I had surgery, chemo, and radiation. I believe God answered prayer then, yours and ours and I know He still answers prayer now. As of today my PSA is .14. This is a decrease of tremendous proportion. Your prayers are powerful and effective.

**PRAY** - I recently recorded 7 hours worth of teaching in Spanish. Please pray this would be useful for God’s glory.

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## Exchanging Greed For Jesus’ Generosity

In II Corinthians 9, Paul begins to explain the principles of Christian generosity. And as he does so, he tells the Corinthians that their generosity to believers in Jerusalem is going to manifest the grace of God in their lives and it is going to bring glory to God in the world. Now again, think how this happens. Their generosity to Christians, even some Christians that weren’t super excited about the Gospel being brought to them, is going to show what? The grace of God at work in their lives. God showed grace to us when we didn’t love Him very much. When we didn’t love Him at all He gave His Son. “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly,” Paul would say in Romans chapter 5. And so by giving to these needy Jewish Christians in Jerusalem, some of whom haven’t been really excited about Paul’s Gentile mission, what are these Gentile Christians showing? Grace! God’s shown them grace by saving them through His Son, Jesus Christ. Now they get to show grace in their giving.

And what will that result in? It will result in God getting glory in the world. Again, just think of their neighbors. “You’re taking up money to give to Jewish people in Palestine but you’re not very well off yourselves, you’re facing persecution here, and Jewish people don’t like us. And don’t they call us dogs? Don’t they call us dogs?” “Yeah, but we’re now brothers and sisters in Christ. We believe in Jesus Christ who is the Messiah and these Jewish people that we’re sending this collection to also believe in Jesus as the Messiah, and though we are ethnically Jewish and Gentile and so different as water and oil, we’re now brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.” And can’t you see their unbelieving friends kind of scratching their heads and saying, “What’s going on here?” God’s going to get glory in the world through this collection.

Look at II Corinthians 9:7. Paul says, “Each one must do as he has made up in his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion.” In other words, you’re not going to be begrudging. You’re not going to be reluctant in that giving, but in contrast he says, “God loves a cheerful giver.” If we are going to manifest this Christian generosity that shows the grace of God at work in our lives and gives glory to God in this world, then that giving will be giving that we want to give. Paul wants you to want to give.

But of course, the real thing that is behind what Paul is saying is God Himself. God has been willing to us in the Gospel. “For God so loved the world that He gave.” He willingly gave His own Son. So when we are willing in our giving we are emulating God because He has been willing in the work of our salvation. So it’s the Gospel that serves as a model for our giving.

Source: “Happy Giving: Because You Want To” by Dr. Ligon Duncan

## KEY VERSE

II Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV)

*“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

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## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: II Corinthians 9:1-15; I Cor. 16:2; Genesis 28:22**

### Give Systematically

1. Based on the cover and today's readings, describe how the believer is to give.
2. Do you have a plan for giving? What plan for giving does I Corinthians 16:2 give us?

**Tuesday: II Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 6:7; Proverbs 11:24-25**

### Give Bountifully

3. What analogy does Paul use in today's readings? What does it teach us about generosity?
4. What does it mean to sow sparingly? What does it mean to sow bountifully?

**Wednesday: II Corinthians 9:7; I Chronicles 29:17; Acts 20:35**

### Give Cheerfully

5. What does it mean to give cheerfully?
6. What might be some symptoms or signs of reluctant giving?

**Thursday: II Corinthians 9:8-9; Malachi 3:10; Deut. 8:11-18**

### Give Faithfully

7. Take some time to think about your giving. What words would you use to describe it?
8. According to II Corinthians 9:8, what is God able to do for us? What is the purpose of the abundance that we receive from God?
9. According to today's readings, where does our wealth come from? What does that mean for your generosity?

**Friday: II Corinthians 9:10-15; I Chron. 29:9-13; John 3:16**

### Give Thankfully

10. According to today's readings, describe the relationship between giving and thankfulness.
11. List some ways that God has provided for you physically.
12. How has God provided for you spiritually? Take time to thank God for his provision in your life.